

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News, 5th Edition October 2005

Countdown to launch: 257 days

MISSION STATUS UPDATE FROM THE DAWN PROJECT MANAGER

The second Framing Camera was delivered to Orbital, and bench checkout completed. Both Framing Cameras are waiting integration on the spacecraft. The first Power Processing Unit (PPU) for the ion propulsion system is complete, and has been delivered to Orbital. The second PPU is in environmental testing. The three gimbal assemblies for the ion thrusters have been delivered to Orbital, and the two outboard units have been mechanically integrated on the spacecraft. Spacecraft integration and test is progressing very well.

Stay up-to-date with the Dawn mission as we prepare for launch by visiting our Web site at: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>

Tom Frascetti, Dawn Project Manager

MEET DAWN'S PROJECT MANAGER

"I'm a believer that anybody can be whatever they want if they put their mind to it. No student should think that they are not capable of achieving whatever it is that they want to achieve, because they absolutely can do it. What they have to understand is that it's not going to be easy. It's going to take a lot of work. It may not be fun in the beginning, but as you progress, it gets more and more fun. And so, the rewards are really great for the work that you do."

>> Interview and video clip: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/people/frascetti/frascetti_inter.asp

SEND YOUR NAME TO THE ASTEROID BELT

Have you always wanted to fly through our solar system's asteroid belt? Now you can virtually journey about the Dawn spacecraft and send your name to the asteroid belt. Your name will be recorded onto a microchip that will be placed aboard the spacecraft accompanying it on its mission to the asteroid belt. Climbing aboard is easy!

>> Go to: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnCommunity/Sendname2asteroid/index_asteroid_blt.aspx

NOTE: Once you have entered your name, a certificate will appear. Remember to hit the "Print" button, as this is your only opportunity to print your "name onboard" verification.

UNLOCKING SOME OF CERES MYSTERIES

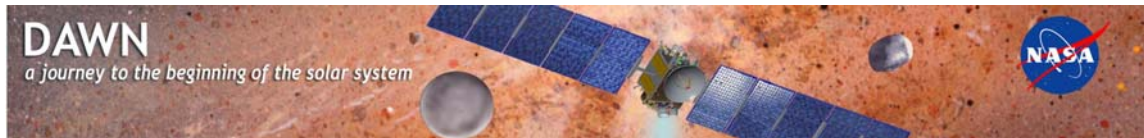
The observations by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope show that Ceres shares characteristics of the rocky, terrestrial planets like Earth. According to Dr. Lucy McFadden, Dawn mission scientist and director of education and public outreach, "Ceres is an embryonic planet. Gravitational perturbations from Jupiter billions of years ago prevented Ceres from accreting more material to become a full-fledged planet."

>> Feature: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/science/index.asp>

KIDS ASK DAWN

Hey kids! 'Have a question about asteroids or the Dawn mission? Communicate directly with a member of the Dawn team by selecting the "Ask Dawn" link on our Dawn Kids page.

>> <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnKids/index.asp>



UPCOMING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS

Dawn Education and Public Outreach staff will be at:

Exploring the Solar System: Mile Hi Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts Council, October 8, 2005

<http://www.dawn-mission.org/DawnCommunity/index.asp>

Denver Museum of Nature & Science Educator Night, October 10, 2005

<http://www.dawn-mission.org/education/index.asp>

NASA booth: October 15-18, 2005 ASTC Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia

<http://www.astc.org/>

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Continually seeking ways to improve the mission Web site, Dawn Education and Public Outreach is eager to receive your feedback. Please share your thoughts by completing a brief survey at:

>> <http://survey.mcrel.org/external/dawn/website505.htm>

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Please forward this e-mail to share with others interested in NASA missions. New subscribers may join the Dawn mission e-news mailing list on our Web site at:

>> http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnMedia/e_news.asp

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach Web site, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is the ninth Discovery mission in NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles; Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Los Alamos National Laboratory; German Aerospace Center; Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research; Italian Space Agency; and Italian National Institute of Astrophysics. Dawn outreach materials are developed under contract by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Aurora, CO.